

FATE OF TREES IN NEBRASKA NOW IS UP TO THE PEOPLE

Attention Demanded for Asset Which Holds Reasonable Promise of Ultimate Return.

By T. W. McCULLOUGH

Finally, the acid test of all propositions is, "Will it pay?" If it requires the permanent investment of capital, will it bring returns sufficient to justify the original expenditure?

Any scheme or plan that cannot undergo this test is very apt to be put to one side in these days, when practical utility is the basis for action, public or private, and when betterments of any kind, no matter by whom undertaken, are measured and stand or fall in terms of dollars. Will it pay Nebraska to invest any considerable amount of money in the forestation of the vacant land in the "sand hill" area? This question must have an affirmative answer, if the project is to receive any support from the people, support it cannot thrive without.

As the ultimate return must necessarily be postponed some years, because in this part of the world you can not plant a useful tree one year and gather profit from it the next, a little faith may be called for at the outset. Not much, though, because the government has shown that pine trees can be grown successfully in the regions under discussion, and settlers up there have profited by the government's example and now have pine tree windbreaks and other groups of such size as to be really important.

Timber Will Come.

Thus it is made certain that the timber will come if only the seedlings be planted and given a little care until their sturdy growth brings them up.

That there is a use for timber that can be so produced does not need argument; what its value will be cannot be said accurately, but it will surely be worth something, and undoubtedly far more than is now being received by the state from the land that may be given over to the forest growth.

The so-called "sand hill" region is not without settlers. Much of the land has been taken up by ranchers under the Kinkaid act, while not a little is held under lease contracts with the state, and is used for grazing purposes.

Some of it is so-called "potash" land, but all of it may be employed for some useful purpose. Naturally, the really desirable valleys or "pockets" were long ago hunted out and taken over by enterprising ranchers, who have prospered accordingly.

State Holds Title.

Within the area of 20,000 square miles comprising the "sand hill" region, the state of Nebraska holds title to 657,315 acres of land. This is distributed as follows:

County	Originally Acquired	Under Lease
Adair	65,000	67,850
Antelope	14,475	14,475
Cherry	14,475	14,475
DeWitt	28,950	28,950
Franklin	28,950	28,950
Grant	28,950	28,950
Harlan	28,950	28,950
Jefferson	28,950	28,950
Lincoln	28,950	28,950
Logan	28,950	28,950
Madison	28,950	28,950
McPherson	28,950	28,950
Polk	28,950	28,950
Rock	28,950	28,950
Saline	28,950	28,950
Washington	28,950	28,950
York	28,950	28,950
Total	657,315	657,315

The 33,000 acres originally acquired, but no longer held by the state, have been disposed of by deed or on contract of sale. These figures are from the last published report of the commissioner of public lands and buildings, for 1917-18. They may be taken as approximately correct for the present.

Total Revenue Received.

The total revenue for the biennium reported is received by the state from these lands is \$172,450.32, coming from several counties in the following:

County	Amount
Adair	29,849.51
Antelope	28,950.00
Cherry	28,950.00
DeWitt	28,950.00
Franklin	28,950.00
Grant	28,950.00
Harlan	28,950.00
Jefferson	28,950.00
Lincoln	28,950.00
Logan	28,950.00
Madison	28,950.00
McPherson	28,950.00
Polk	28,950.00
Rock	28,950.00
Saline	28,950.00
Washington	28,950.00
York	28,950.00
Total	\$172,450.32

This tabulation includes all money received by the state from these lands and embraces "rental," "interest," "additional interest" and "principal," the total amounting to a revenue for the two years of 26 1/2 cents per acre, or 13 1/4 cents per acre per year. No wonder Commissioner Shumway reported that a large proportion of the land owned by the state is "slacker land."

Some Still Unbroken.

Do you think that if these lands were covered by forests, even of the jack pine variety, that the annual net income per acre would fall below 13 1/4 cents?

There is mighty little call for some of this land. In Antelope county the state still holds all it originally acquired. In McPherson county 600 acres have been disposed of, and from the remaining 30,120 acres the state received \$2,638.54 for the two years, or 87 cents per acre.

Trees growing there certainly would be worth more than 5 cents an acre per year to the school fund of the state. In Thomas county only 10 acres of the original grant has been alienated, the remaining 25,500 bringing in an annual revenue of \$936.15, just over 3 1/2 cents an acre. A year's cutting of jack pine fence posts would not bring less than that.

Reserves Established.

Forest reserves already have been established in Nebraska. The Niobrara reserve in Cherry county contains 115,963 acres, while the Bessey reserve in Blaine and Thomas counties contain 90,111 acres, a total of 206,074 acres.

But these are reserves in name only; no forestry work has been or is being done on them. The federal experiment was carried out along the Dismal river, in Thomas county, and it is this Dr. Condra refers to in his "Nebraska Resources and Industries" (bulletin No. 14): "The federal government has experimented with tree planting near Halsey, and shown conclusively that certain species can be grown on the

sand hills of Nebraska. Many ranchmen, profiting by this experience, have beautified their places and grown large windbreaks for protection. The reserve has now several hundred acres of very good pine forest, which can be seen from the Burlington trains as they pass through the middle Loup valley above Halsey."

Supported by the comprehensive and entirely trustworthy reports of Dr. Condra on the result of the soil survey of the state, particularly with reference to the region under discussion; by the reports of the commissioner of public lands and buildings that these acres are not producing the revenue they should; by the experience of the United States government, which liberally defrayed the cost of carrying out an extensive experiment in tree planting in the sand hills, the question of their fu-

ture is now squarely up to the people of Nebraska.

All the political parties are pledged to the preservation of whatever of water power is possible within the state; the state rights in any mineral deposit has been firmly asserted.

Why not give some attention to an asset that holds a reasonable promise of ultimate return? Other states have found it a profitable investment. In Pennsylvania a strong movement is under way, headed by Gifford Pinchot and influentially supported, to reforest the mountains denuded by the earlier generations.

Much of this work was done when Theodore Roosevelt set aside the reservations in the Appalachian range, but it has not been carried forward as it should have been. The people of Pennsylvania are being aroused to the possible results of their neglect, and a more vigorous

policy in support of the state-owned forest lands is promised.

Will Nebraskans be less foresighted and allow the opportunity to go over again? Or will the legislature that meets in January give intelligent attention to this important factor in the future of the commonwealth?

School Days

Readin'---Ritin and Rith-metic

In buying your children's supplies at Burgess-Nash Co. you **MULTIPLY** their happiness by securing neat, new apparel that will **ADD** to his or her comfort and welfare, without **SUBTRACT**.

Let Them Have Plenty of School Supplies

Here Are a Few Reminders

- History Covers
- Compasses
- Pencils
- Fountain Pens, Waterman's or Shaffer
- Eversharp Pencils
- Erasers and Art Gum
- Paints, Milton Bradley or Prangs
- Rulers
- School Bags
- Book Straps
- Colored Chalk
- Craolas and Crayons
- Tablets
- Memorandums, Loose Leaf or Others
- Slates
- Record and Composition Books
- Pencil Boxes
- Papeteries and Correspondence Cards

Main Floor.

Complete Outfits for School and College

May be obtained in the course of a single morning's shopping at Burgess-Nash.

Every essential item of the entire wardrobe is in the stock and ready for immediate wear, selected and assembled by those who have had years of training and experienced in outfitting the younger set, and know just what may be correctly worn on every occasion.

The Burgess-Nash Personal Shopping Service is at the disposal of out-of-town patrons.

Every Child Needs These Little Necessities

Sidley garters for children in white, pink and blue, at 45c and 50c.

Hickory waists, with or without garters, 59c and 89c.

Dr. Parker's waists, 39c each.

Bo Peep garters for half hose in all colors, per pair, 19c.

Children's circular combs in shell and amber, 35c each.

Main Floor.

See Page 4-B For Announcement of Enormous Sale of Boys' Suits

Monday on the Fourth Floor

The Ever-Popular Middy Blouses

Middy blouses of the famous Jack Tar and Goody brands. Are white with navy, red or open collars. Also flannel middies in navy, red or green.

The girls will be delighted with these middies, and there is no garment more popular with mothers.

Second Floor.

Dainty New Dresses For School Girls

No wonder the girl takes so much pride in having pretty dresses to wear to school—for school is the young girl's social world. It is in school that she lives the important hours of her young life and makes the friends of a lifetime.

So girls will appreciate the new dresses that we have gathered for this important service. They are not only the best obtainable in materials and workmanship for the prices, but they are smart in style and prettily made and finished throughout.

We are showing a complete line of Jack Tar Togs in All-Wool Serge, Jean, Palmer, Linen and Jack Tar Cloth.

We call attention to the French and Storm Serge Dresses, which have never been prettier, with their dainty touches of hand embroidery.

Second Floor.

For the Little Tots of Kindergarten Age

Dainty Apparel for the First School Days

The first day that you start your youngster off to kindergarten marks the day when they are no longer Mother's Babies, but Mother's Big Girl or Boy.

To suit that propitious occasion, clothes must be got which will uphold their young dignity. Here, in the Babies' Corner, special attention has been directed to the outfitting of the kindergarten with dresses, coats, sweaters and hats—made to withstand hard and constant wear and still retain their original good lines.

Second Floor.

The New Suits For Misses

Are Youthful in Style and Material

Everything is practical, and well made, with just enough and not too much trimming. There is a touch of individuality and refinement about Burgess-Nash suits that appeals to the mothers as well as the daughters.

The Newest in Blouses

To Wear With the Suits, Are Unusual and Charming

Simply made as befitting youth, colorful and very becoming.

Dependable Hosiery For Those of School Age

The youngsters will need many pairs of hosiery. Here are some very good values—

School Hose

For boys and girls, in black, white and cordovan, made with double soles, toes and heels, in the light and medium weights. Sizes 5 to 10, priced 75c pair.

Main Floor.

Stockings

A good medium weight stocking for school wear, priced according to size—55c, 60c and 65c pair.

Main Floor.

New Coats for Misses

Becoming and Smartly Tailored

They are fashioned of many charmingly luxurious fabrics, among them duvety, chameleon cords, peachbloom, etc. Many of them are elaborated by collars, cuffs and trimmings of fur.

Second Floor.

Sensible Footwear For Boys and Girls

The main trouble today is that parents look for cheap shoes for children. They fail to realize that children's shoes have advanced the same as men's and women's. The result is poor service and dissatisfaction. We believe you can save money by choosing dependable shoes at higher prices for boys and children.

For the Girls

Misses' and children's tan and black calfskin lace and button boots, Goodyear welt soles, foot-form lasts, extra high cut, absolutely all solid leather, several styles, prices—\$6.25 to \$9.50.

Second Floor.

For the Boys

In tan and black calfskin, best quality of leather in footform and English models made to stand real wear. Prices—\$5.00 to \$9.00. The kind of shoe that will give the boys lots of good, hard service.

Second Floor.

Furnishings For the Boys

Boys like to be well dressed, and their parents are anxious to have them so. Here are furnishings that will appeal to everyone, and

Specially Priced For This Occasion

- All-wool school knickerbocker, \$3.50.
- School neckwear, 39c.
- School blouses, 95c.
- Crompton corduroy knickerbocker, \$3.50.
- All-wool Shaker knit sweaters, \$8.50 and \$7.50.

Fourth Floor.

Comfortable Underwear

The Kind the Children Like

Boys' Union Suits

Short sleeves and knee length, sizes 24 to 34, priced specially at 87c. Just the suit for the young man to start in his fall term of school.

Girls' Union Suits

Made with Bishop neck, elbow sleeve, ankle length, of a super weight of combed yarn. Steam shrunk in the cloth, and made to fit. Priced according to sizes—\$1.25, \$1.35, \$1.55, \$1.65. Sizes 2 to 10 years.

Cotton Bloomers

For the young lady; sizes 6 to 16, priced 69c; black, sizes 4 to 14, priced 85c.

Fall and Winter Sweaters

We are ready with the new fall and winter models for school in coat, tuxedo, fish tail, slip over and middie effects in a wide range of colors and priced from \$3.95 up.

Second Floor.

BURGESS-NASH COMPANY.

"EVERYBODY'S STORE"

We are the only store in Omaha carrying the regulation school uniforms as authorized by the faculty of

BROWNELL HALL AND SACRED HEART ACADEMY

Solve the children's clothes problems by selecting them here. We are splendidly ready to serve you well.